Beautification of Jhelum river

1052. SHRI T. S.BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan for the restoration and beautification of river Jhelum in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any detailed project from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total estimated expenditure of the project; and

(e) the amount released and utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e)Government of Jammu and Kashmir submitted pre-feasibility reports for four towns, Ananthnag, Srinagar, Sopore and Baramullah for taking up works for pollution abetment of river Jhelum under the National River Conservation Plan in 1977 at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.42 crore to Ministry of Environment and Forests. After examination, the Ministry of Environment and Forests sought some clarifications from the State Government and subsequently asked to prepare and submit a Detailed Project Report for the four towns. No Detailed Project Report has been submitted by State Government.

No proposal has been submitted to Ministry of Tourism and Development for beautification of river Jhelum.

As far as Ministry of Water Resources is concerned a proposal for "Critical Anti-erosion Works, Drainage improvement and Enhancing Flood Channel Capacity at Critical Reaches of River Jhelum" estimated to cost Rs.12 crore submitted by the State Government was techno-economically apprised by Central Water Commission (CWC). Investment clearance for the same was accorded by Planning Commission in November, 2006. The scheme was included under State Sector schemes of Ministry of Water Resources, *i.e.* "Critical Anti-erosion Works in Coastal and other than Ganga Basin States" for funding by the Government of India. Government of India has released Rs.809 lakhs for the scheme "Critical Anti-erosion Works, Drainage Improvement and Enhancing Flood Channel Capacity at Critical Reaches of River Jhelum", out of which an amount of Rs.92 lakhs has been utilized by the State Government upto June, 2007. The revised scheme incorporating the provision for construction of a weir at Chattabal and increasing other items has been submitted to CWC.

Dependency on rains for cultivation

1053. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 years after Independence, more than 66 per cent of cultivation in the country is still dependent on rains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are 388 incomplete irrigation projects spread all over the country of which 340 were started before 1992 and 40 before 1974;